

IT'S AWESOME! IT'S EPIC! IT'S INTENSE! IT'S--

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

Archie
COMICS

SEGA®

ISSUE 256



COUNTDOWN
TO
CHAOS

THE CONCLUSION

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC™

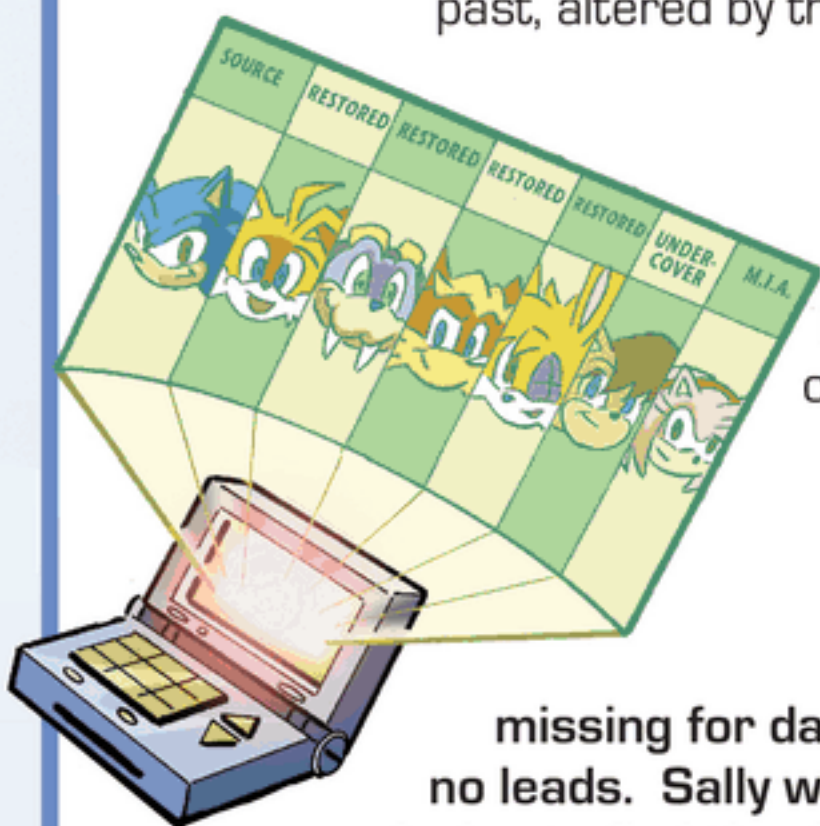
THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...



THE TEAM REUNITES! LET FREEDOM RING!

After foiling Dr. Eggman's plans, both Sonic and Eggman woke up back in their home world, but with new memories – and a new past, altered by the reality-warping Genesis Wave!



Ever since, Sonic has been reuniting his fellow freedom fighters restoring their memories and in the process restoring Nicole's fractured database. Once complete, they hope to understand what happened to their world!

Only two Freedom Fighters are missing now: Sally Acorn and Amy Rose. Amy has been

missing for days with no leads. Sally was on a mission to find the disabled Death Egg and steal crucial data. While she succeeded, Dr. Eggman discovered her, and sent Metal Sonic to ensure she didn't escape...



WHO'S WHO



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
FASTEST THING ALIVE



MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S BEST BUD



DR. EGGMAN
SONIC'S MAD SCIENTIST NEMESIS



METAL SONIC
SONIC'S EVIL ROBOTIC DOUBLE

MOBOTROPOLIS,
WESTSIDE ISLAND...

MISS
BLAZE DID
IT! WE'RE
HOME!*

WE
SURE ARE!
I BET SONIC
MISSED
ME...

CREAM
THE RABBIT
YOUNG FLYER

AMY ROSE
THE HAMMER

CHEESE
DEVOTED CHAO
CHAMPION

FWA-WHOOSH!

HE
BETTER
HAVE
MISSED
ME...

BEAN THE DUCK
DYNAMITE
MERCENARY

BARK
THE POLAR BEAR
SILENT PARTNER

*"PIRATE PLUNDER PANIC"
--SU# 55-58.

OH,
GOODNESS!
I BET MOTHER
IS WORRIED
SICK!

DON'T WORRY,
CREAM. WE'RE BACK,
WE'RE SAFE, AND
WE'LL TELL HER **ALL**
ABOUT OUR ADVEN-
TURES OVER TEA
LIKE ALWAYS.

OOH!

WILL THERE BE
CRUMPETS? TEA
BISCUITS?

SCONES?!



FINE! NO SCONES, THEN. SHEESH!

SKOW!

CRASH!

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COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS

FINALE: THE PRINCESS AND THE HAMMER



**SALLY ACORN
THE PRINCESS**

AMY! OH,
THANK GOODNESS!
I DIDN'T THINK MY
DISTRESS SIGNAL
GOT OUT! METAL
SONIC'S RIGHT
ON MY--

--TAIL!

**METAL SONIC
KILLER ROBOT**

ALTHOUGH--NO
OFFENSE--I WISH
YOU'D BROUGHT
MORE BACK-UP,
CONSIDERING...

ROBOT OR
HEDGEHOG,
I CAN HANDLE
ANY SONIC!

SHING!

PIKO!

MISTER BEAN!
MISTER BARK!
WE COULD
REALLY USE
YOUR HELP
RIGHT NOW!

YOU SURE
COULD! HOW
MUCH MONEY
YOU GOT ON
YA?

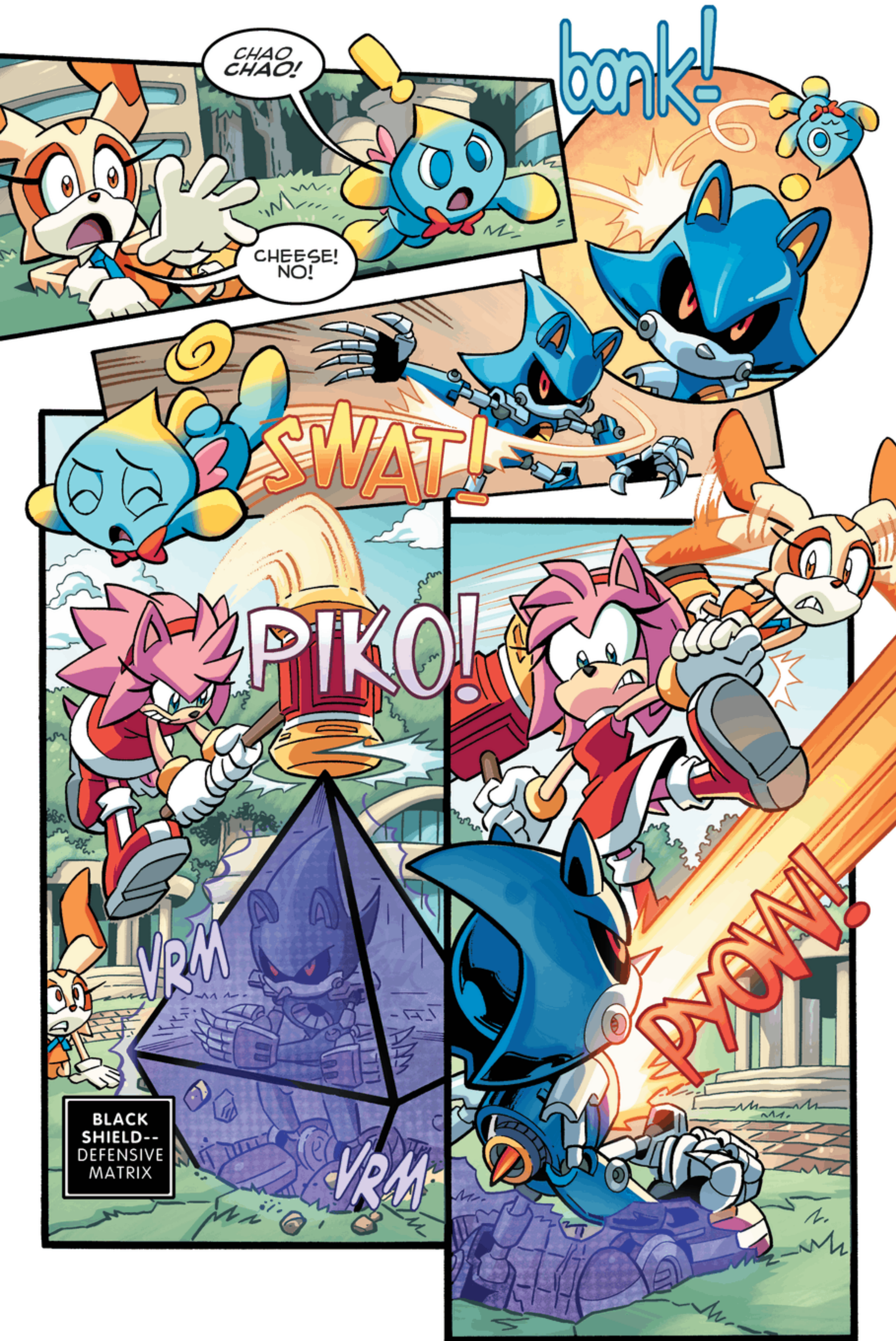
N-NONE,
B-BUT...

SORRY, KIDDO!
ONLY ONE PRO
BONO ADVENTURE
PER VISIT! (AND I
THINK WE'RE
WANTED CRIMINALS
HERE.) TOODLES!

BUT
...BUT...
YOU'RE
SO
MEAN!

EEK!

YHRIPI!



CHAO
CHAO!

CHEESE!
NO!

boonk!

SWAT!

PIKO!

VRM

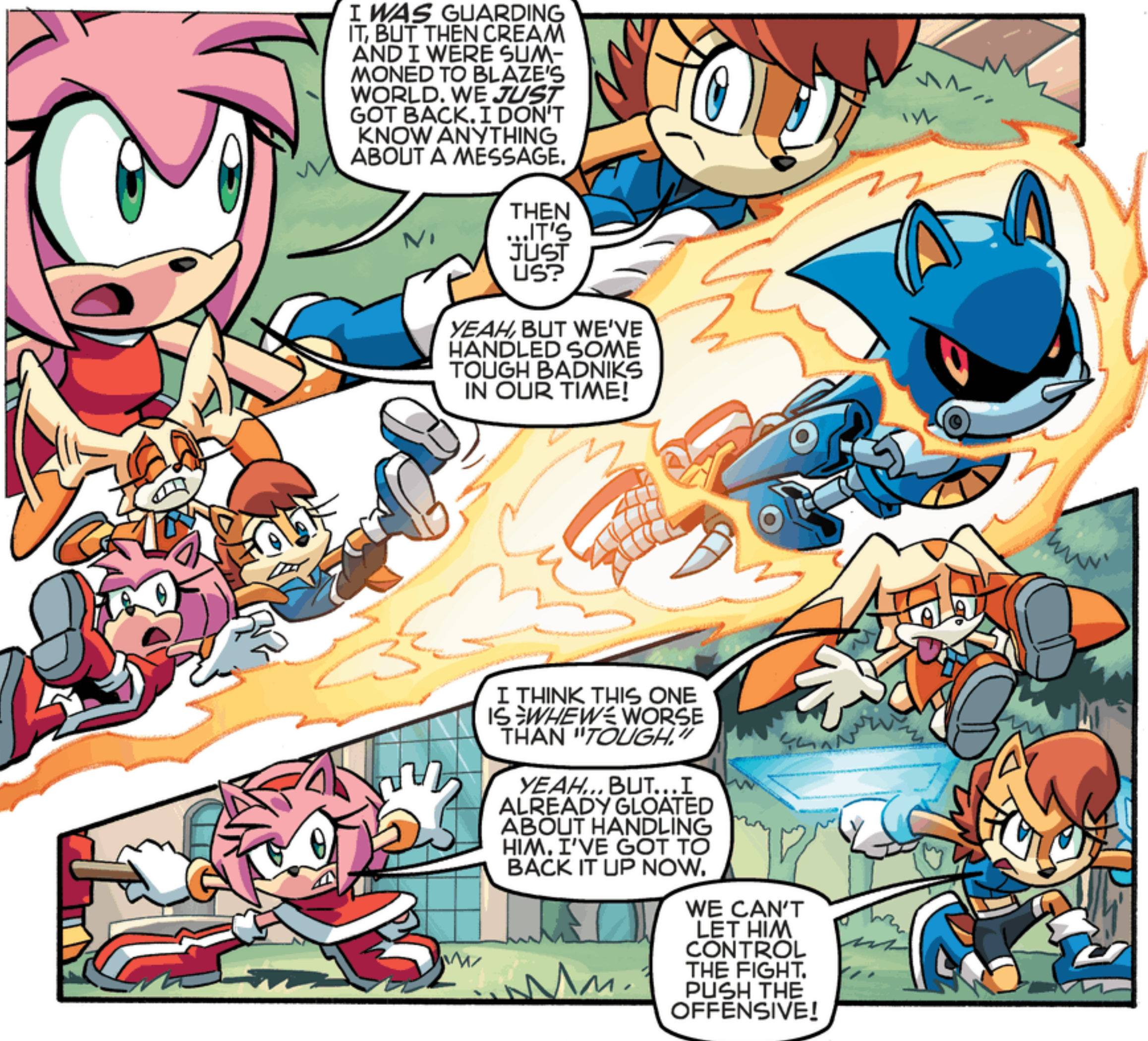
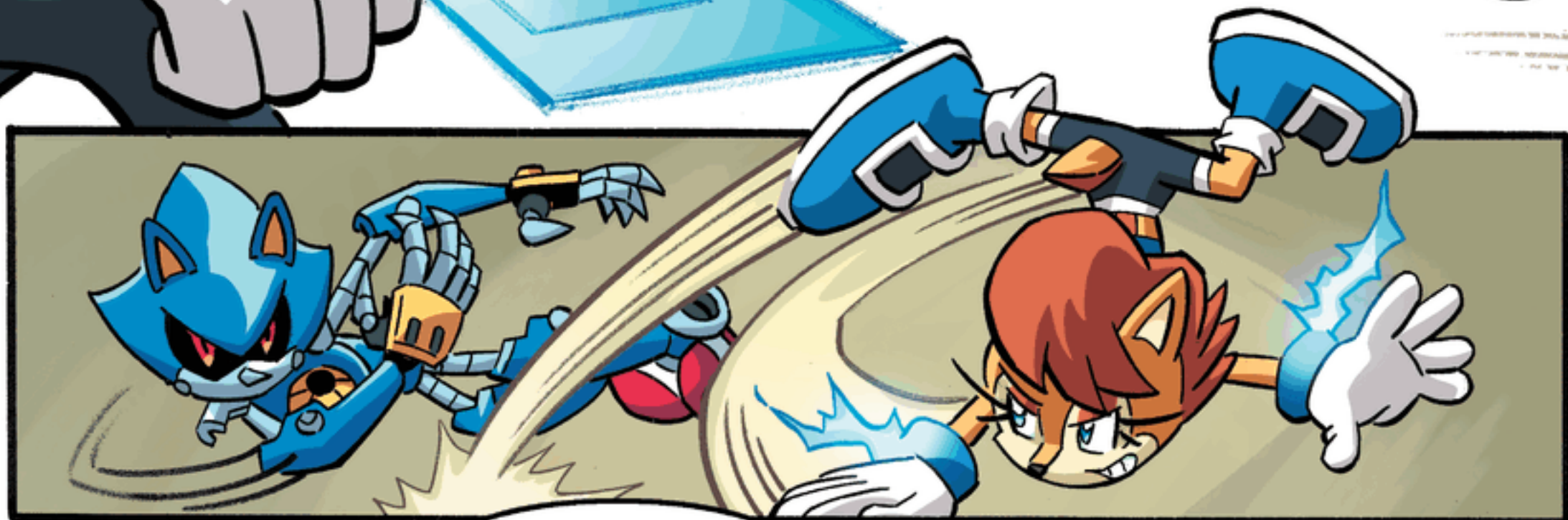
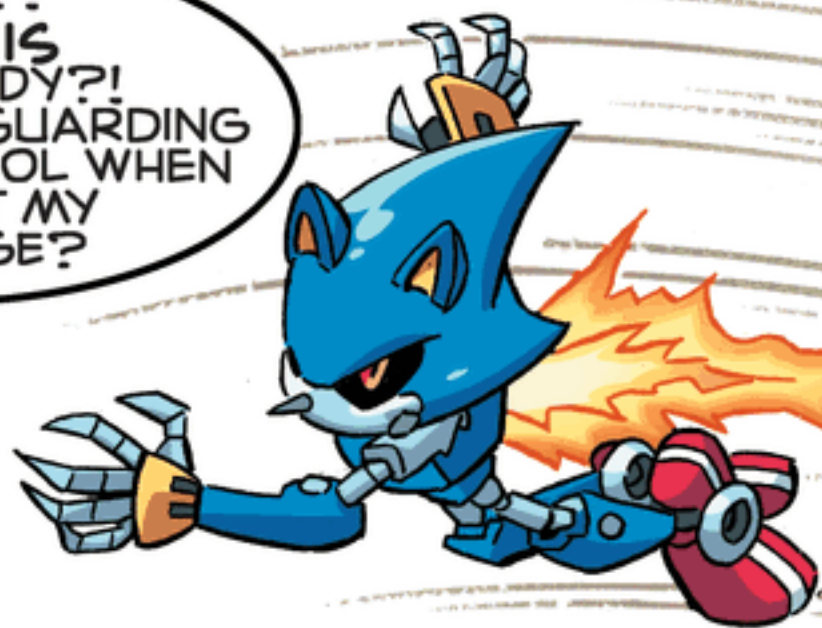
VRM

BLACK
SHIELD--
DEFENSIVE
MATRIX

PONN!



AMY?!
WHERE IS
EVERYBODY?!
WEREN'T YOU GUARDING
THE SKY PATROL WHEN
YOU GOT MY
MESSAGE?



I **WAS** GUARDING
IT, BUT THEN CREAM
AND I WERE SUM-
MONED TO BLAZE'S
WORLD. WE **JUST**
GOT BACK. I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT A MESSAGE.

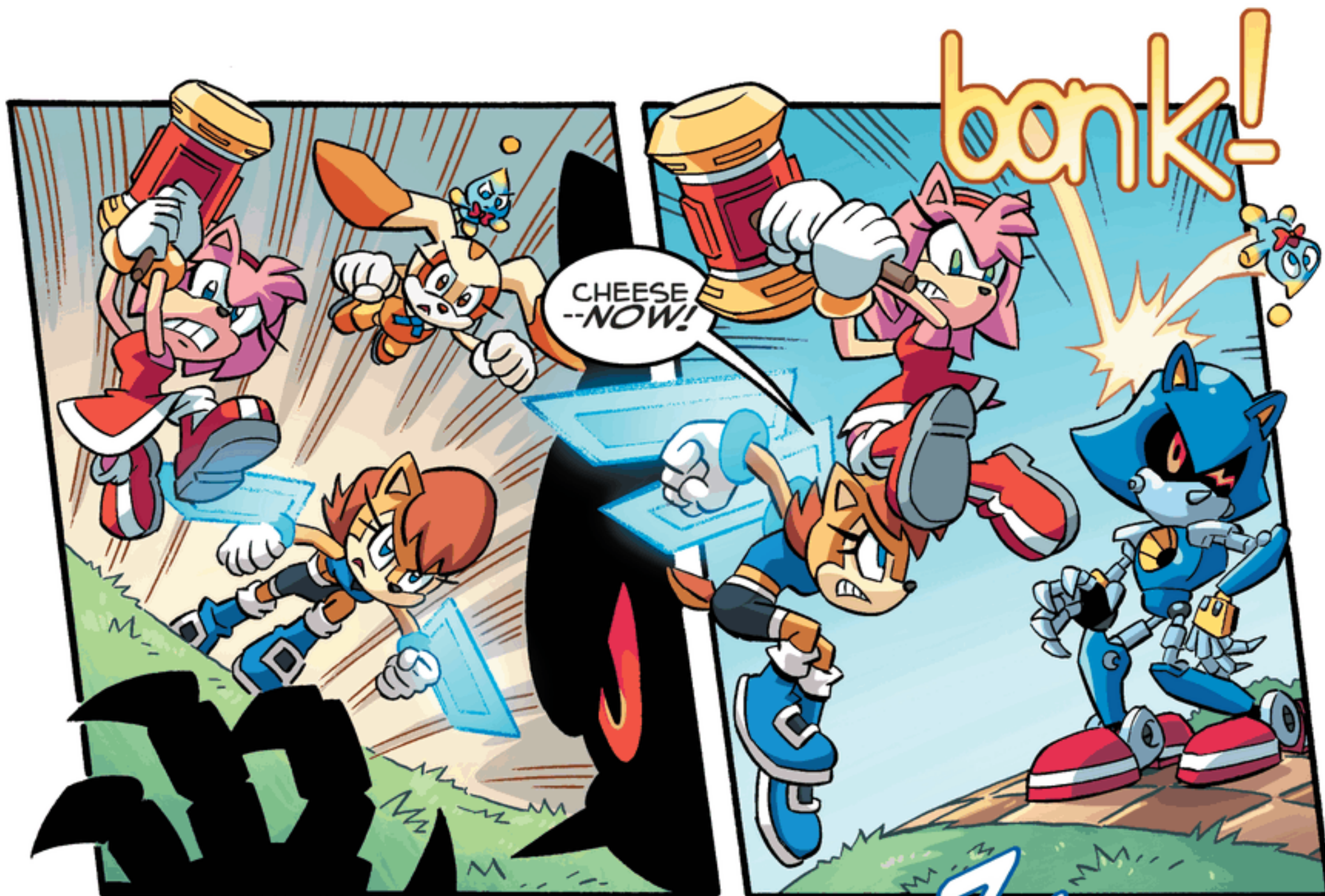
THEN
...IT'S
JUST
US?

YEAH, BUT WE'VE
HANDLED SOME
TOUGH BADNIKS
IN OUR TIME!

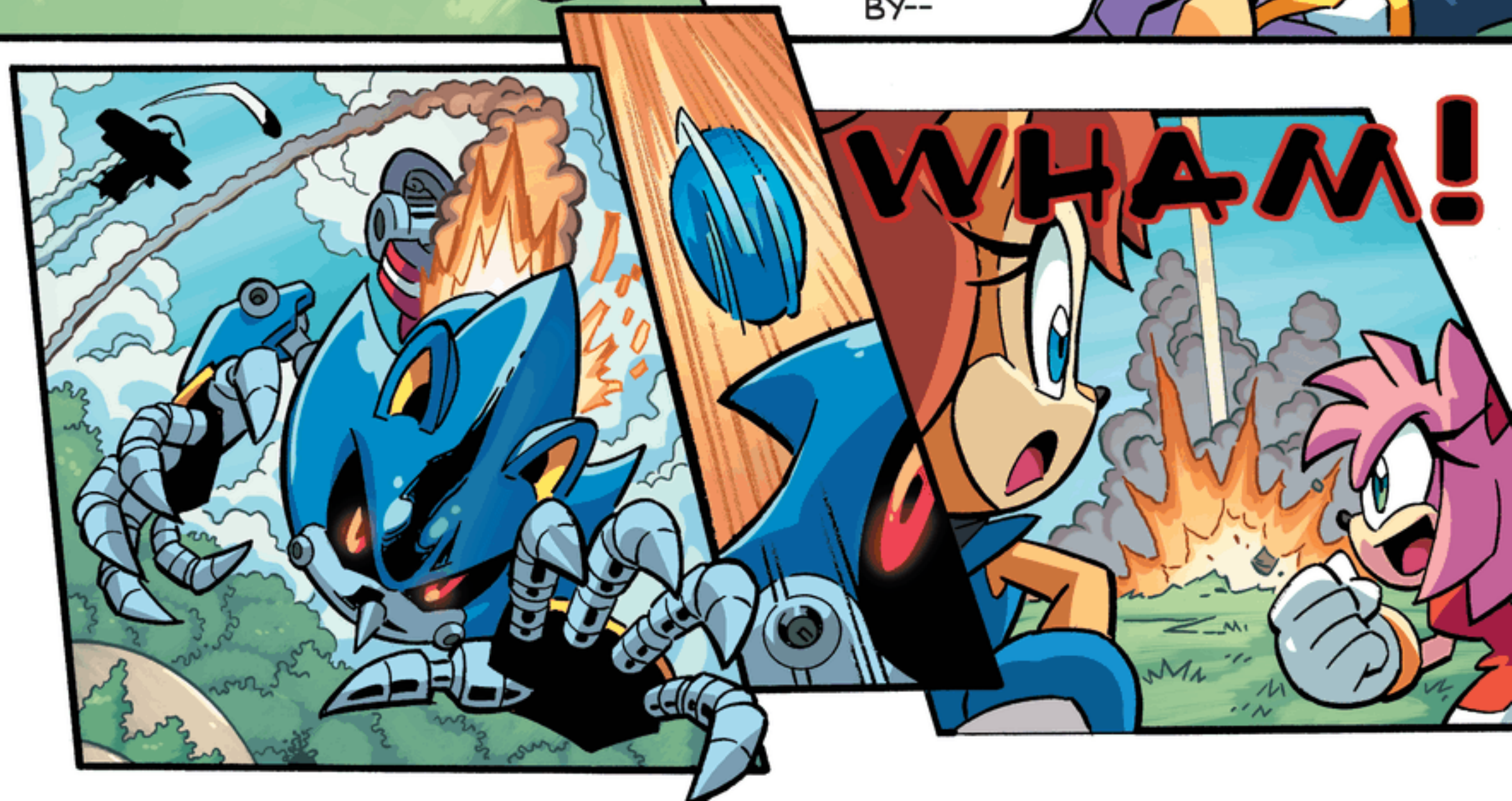
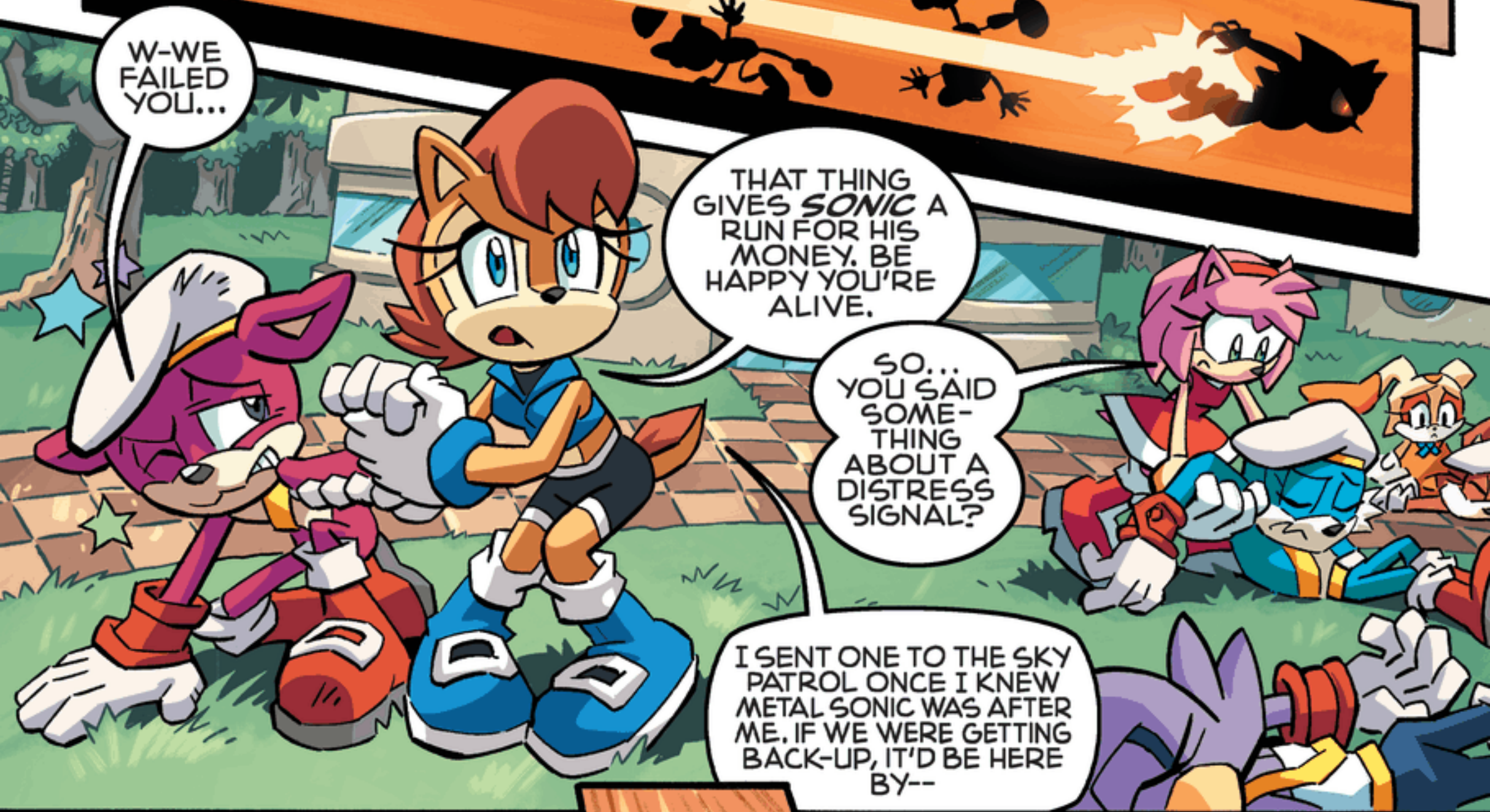
I THINK THIS ONE
IS *WHEW* WORSE
THAN "TOUGH."

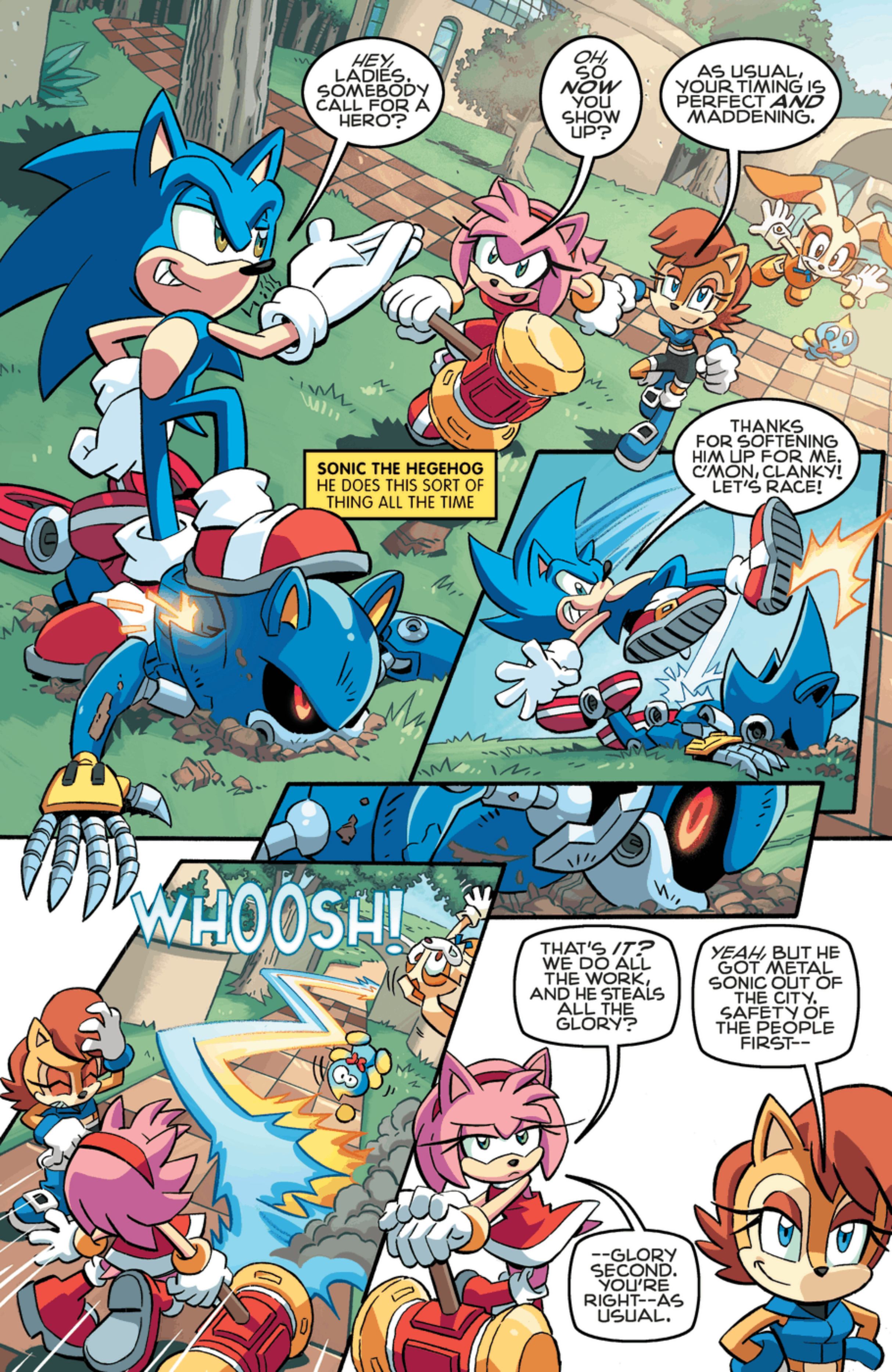
YEAH... BUT... I
ALREADY GLOATED
ABOUT HANDLING
HIM. I'VE GOT TO
BACK IT UP NOW.

WE CAN'T
LET HIM
CONTROL
THE FIGHT.
PUSH THE
OFFENSIVE!



BURST
SHIELD--
JOINT
MATRIX





HEY, LADIES. SOMEBODY CALL FOR A HERO?

OH, SO NOW YOU SHOW UP?

AS USUAL, YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT AND MADDENING.

SONIC THE HEGEHOG
HE DOES THIS SORT OF
THING ALL THE TIME

THANKS
FOR SOFTENING
HIM UP FOR ME.
C'MON, CLANKY!
LET'S RACE!

WHOOSH!

THAT'S IT?
WE DO ALL
THE WORK,
AND HE STEALS
ALL THE
GLORY?

YEAH, BUT HE
GOT METAL
SONIC OUT OF
THE CITY.
SAFETY OF
THE PEOPLE
FIRST--

--GLORY
SECOND.
YOU'RE
RIGHT--AS
USUAL.



YOU HAVIN' TROUBLE KEEPING PACE? DID THOSE MEANIES PLAY TOO ROUGH WITH YOU?

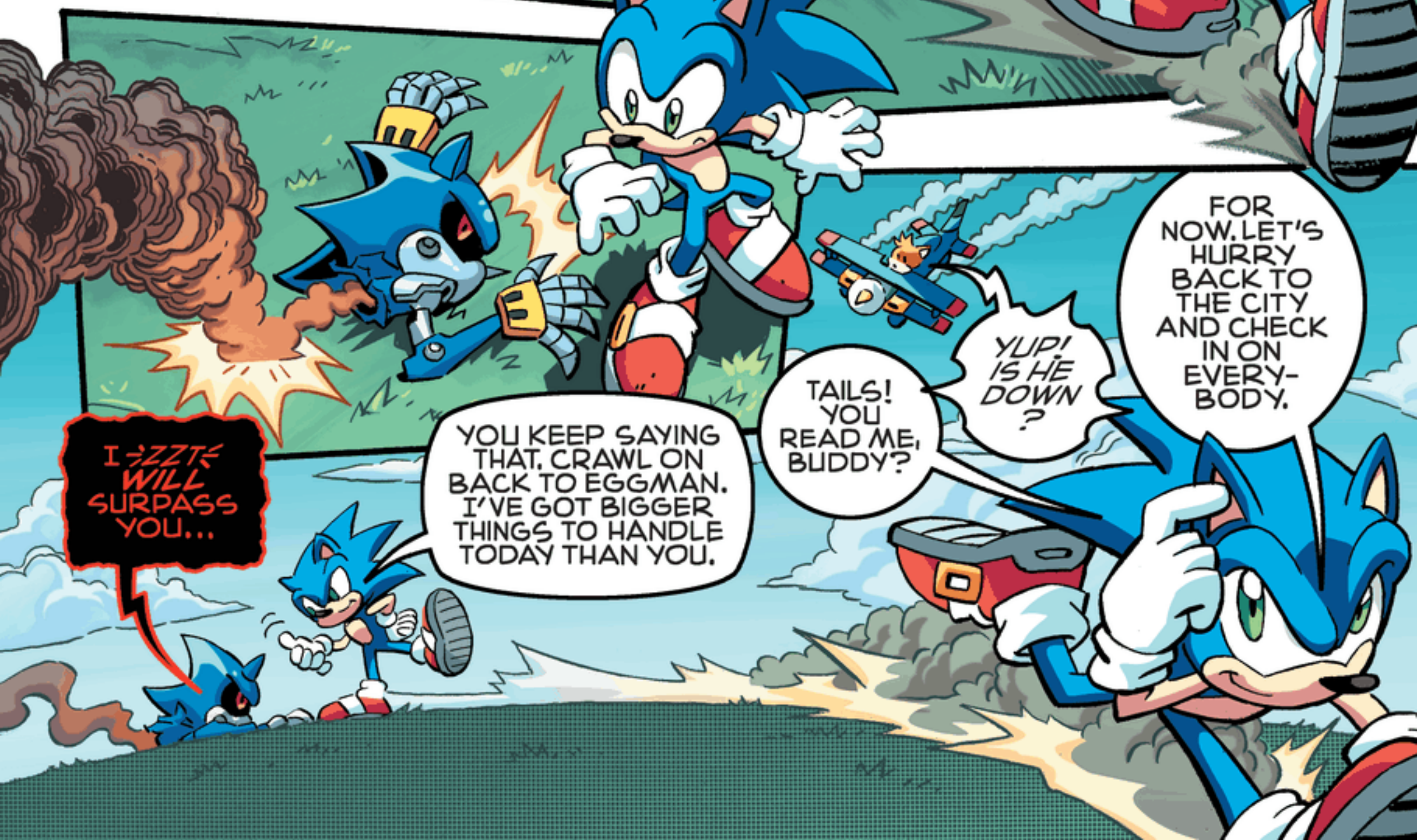
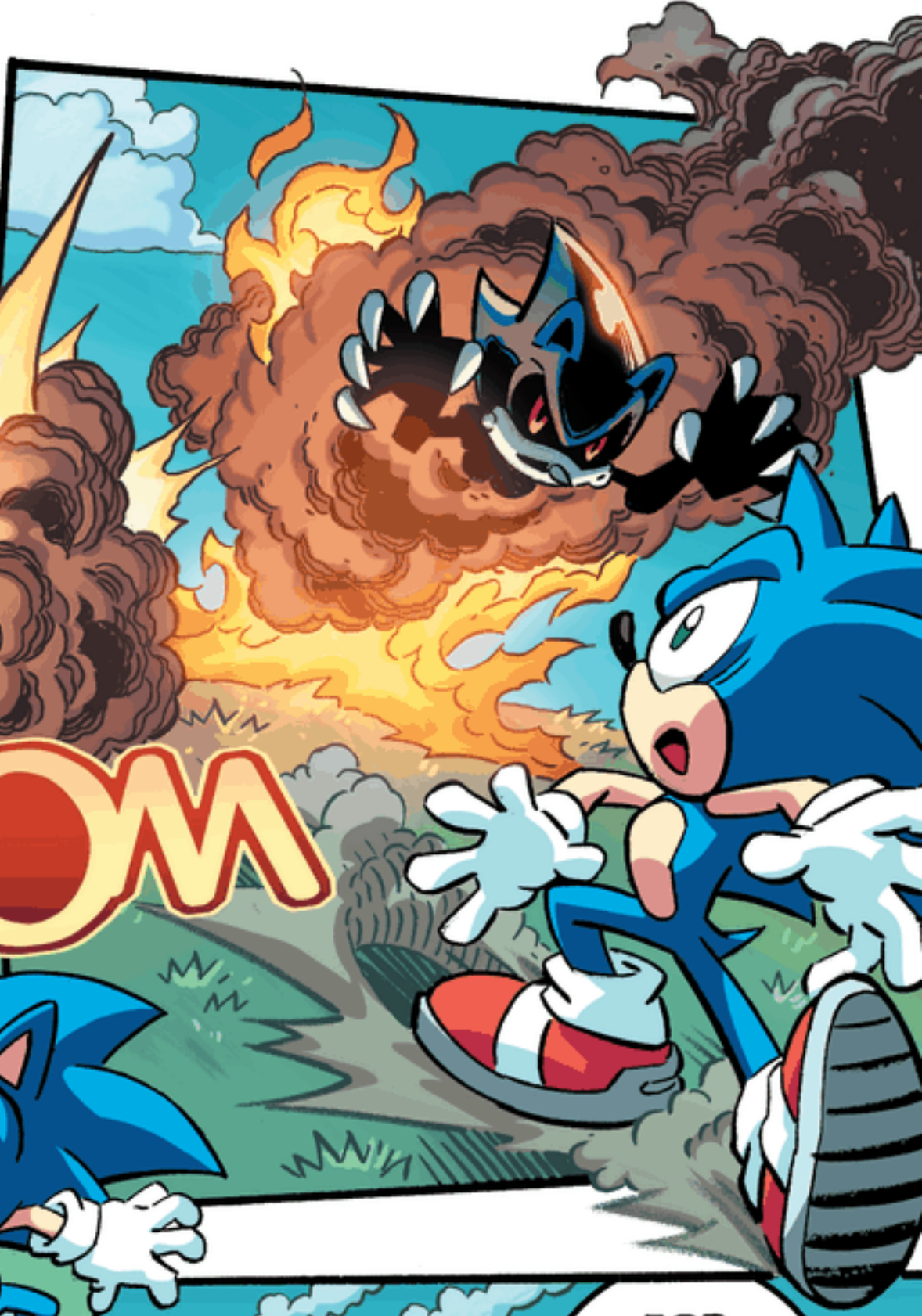
DAMAGE IS NOMINAL. I AM STILL FASTER.



EHH--MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. TODAY, I DON'T REALLY CARE. I'M JUST THE DISTRACTION...

...WHILE TAILS GETS A MISSILE LOCK.

WHA-BOOM



I ~~ZZT~~ WILL SURPASS YOU...

YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, CRAWL ON BACK TO EGGMAN. I'VE GOT BIGGER THINGS TO HANDLE TODAY THAN YOU.

TAILS! YOU READ ME, BUDDY?

YUPI! IS HE DOWN?

FOR NOW, LET'S HURRY BACK TO THE CITY AND CHECK IN ON EVERYBODY.



WHOA!
WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO YOU
?

I JUST...
YOU LOOK
GOOD, SAL.
I MISSED
YOU.

→AHEM←

AND I WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.
WHERE DID
YOU DIS-
APPEAR TO?

OH! I...
WELL...WE
WERE...
BLAZE
SAYS HI!

BLAZE? OH, I GET IT!
WHEN THE GENESIS
WAVE THINGIE SCREWED
UP,* IT SENT YOU TO
BLAZE'S WORLD.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE
BEEN.

YEAH, WE
...GENESIS-
WHAT?

*STH#251.

SONIC...YOU'RE
MAKING LESS
SENSE THAN USUAL.

YEAH-YEAH-YEAH. I'M
GOING TOO FAST. IT'S MY
THING. MY POINT IS--
AMY'S HOME SAFE, YOU'RE
NOT A ROBOT, AND WE'VE
GOT IMPORTANT STUFF
TO HANDLE AT THE SKY
PATROL.

"NOT A
ROBOT?!"

BUT OUR
FIRST STOP...

"...IS TO
CHECK IN
WITH THE
KING."

AND
SO...

MYSTIC RUINS,
SOLMERCA...

WELCOME TO
OUR NEW HOME
AWAY FROM HOME.
PRESENTING--THE
**SKY
PATROL!**

VERY
IMPRESSIVE!
NICE WORK,
ROTOR.

IT WAS A LABOR OF
LOVE, BUT TAILS AND
I PULLED IT TOGETHER.
SHE'S READY FOR
LAUNCH!

FIRST, THOUGH,
SPEAKING OF
PULLING THINGS
TOGETHER...

RIGHT.

LONG
STORY, SAL.
YOU'LL GET
UP TO DATE
...PRETTY
QUICK.
NICOLE--
DO YOU
THINK YOU
CAN RE-
STORE
THEM BOTH
?

NICOLE?
IS SOME-
THING
WRONG
...?

*MAYBE.
I'LL HAVE TO
SHARE THE
CIRCUIT WITH
BOTH OF THEM
SIMULTA-
NEOUSLY.
AFTER THAT,
THE GENESIS
WAVE ENERGY
WILL BE
SPENT.*

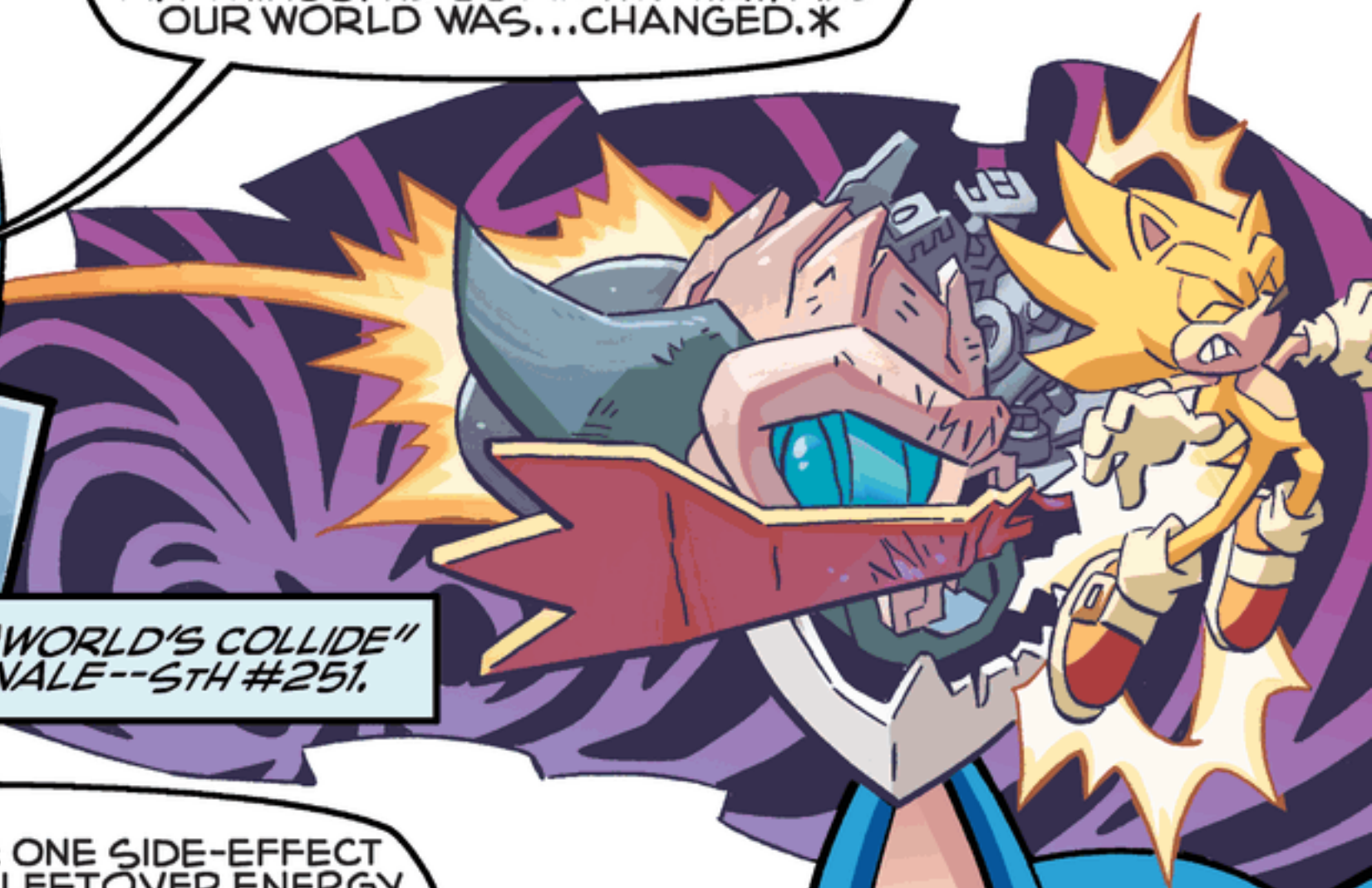
OKAY,
AMY! SAL!
QUICK
STORY
TIME
BEFORE
WE TRY
TO SAVE
THE
WORLD.

SAVE
THE
WORLD?
WHAT'S
GONE
WRONG
NOW?

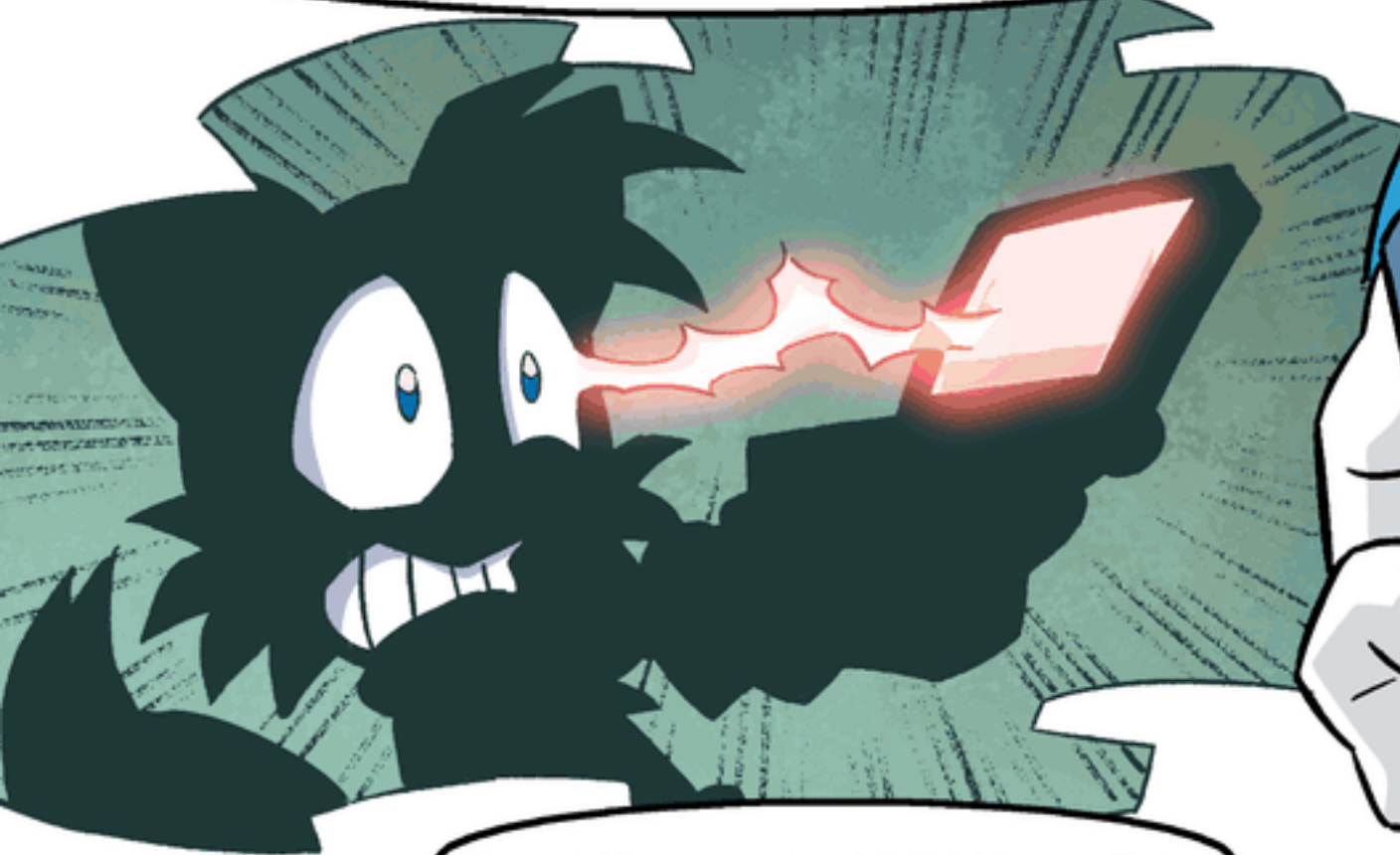


YOU'RE NOT GONNA REMEMBER THIS, BUT...TO PUT IT *REALLY* SIMPLY, EGGMAN TRIED REWRITING REALITY WITH SOMETHING CALLED THE *GENESIS WAVE*. I TRIED TO FIX THINGS, HE GOT IN MY WAY, AND OUR WORLD WAS...CHANGED.*

*"WORLD'S COLLIDE"
FINALE--STH #251.

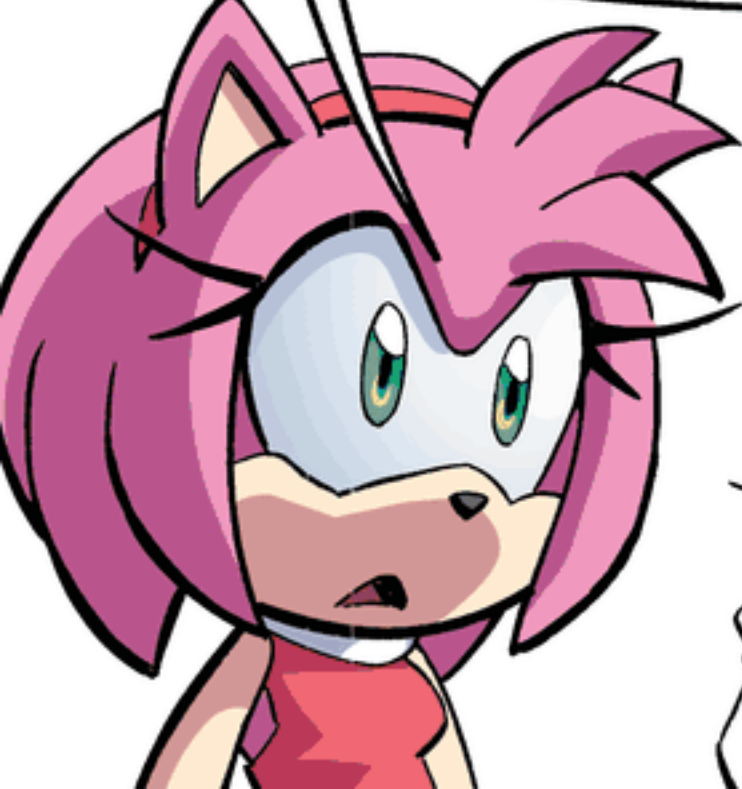


ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE ONE SIDE-EFFECT WAS THAT SOME OF THE LEFTOVER ENERGY FROM THE WAVE GOT TRANSFERRED TO NICOLE, WHICH THREW HER SYSTEMS OUT OF WHACK. BUT WHEN SHE TRANSFERS THAT ENERGY TO US, IT FIXES HER A BIT, AND WE ...WELL, WE REMEMBER. HOW THE WORLD USED TO BE.

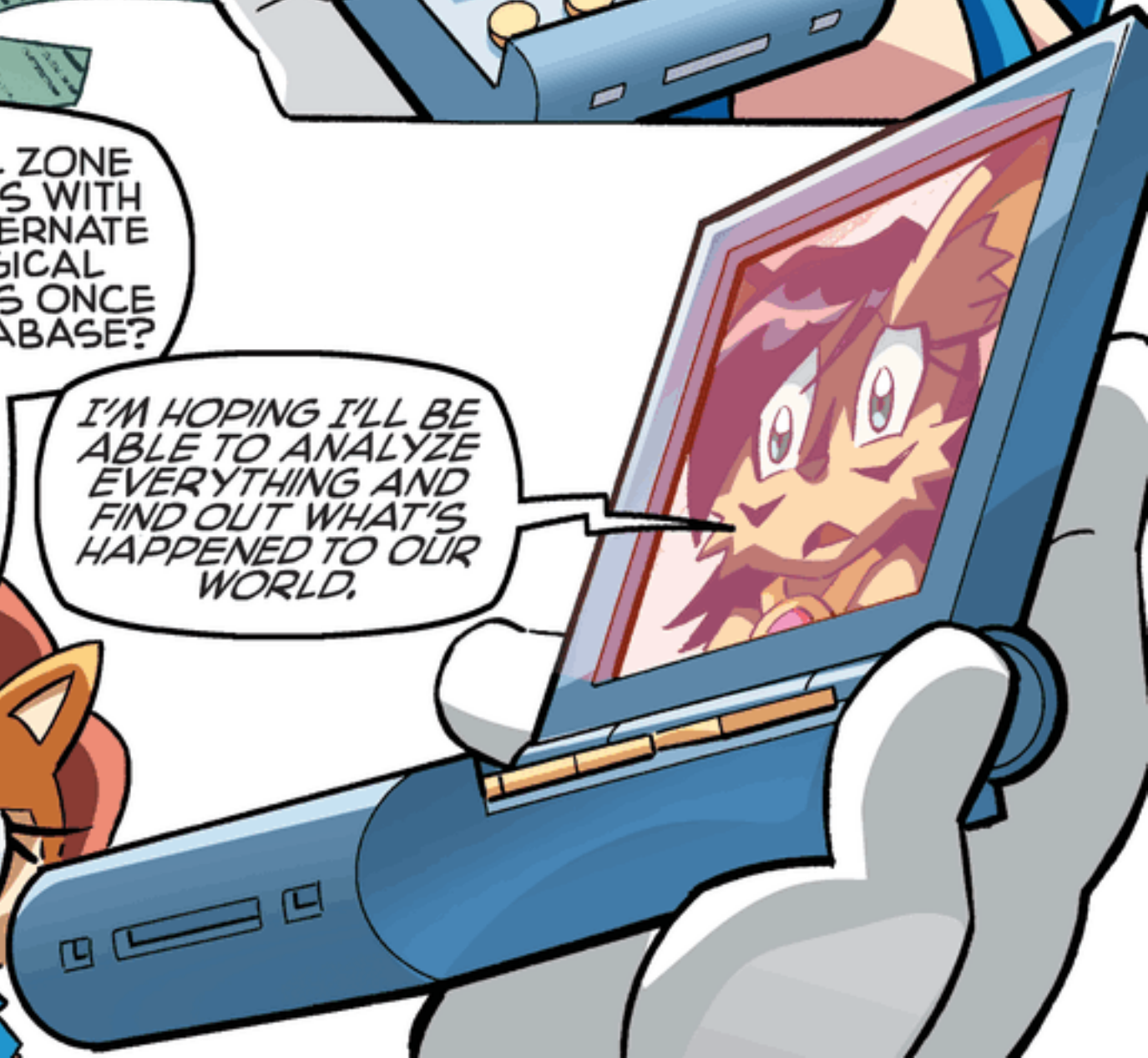


WHOA... A WHOLE DIFFERENT LIFE?

BETWEEN THE SPECIAL ZONE AND OUR INTERACTIONS WITH BLAZE AND SILVER, ALTERNATE TIMELINES SEEM LOGICAL ENOUGH. WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WE RESTORE YOUR DATABASE?



I'M HOPING I'LL BE ABLE TO ANALYZE EVERYTHING AND FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR WORLD.



Y'ALL NEED TO BRACE YOURSELVES, THO'. IT'S A JARRIN' EXPERIENCE BY ITSELF, BUT THIS OTHER LIFE... THINGS WERE SO DIFFERENT, SALLY-GIRL. AND YOU...

NOW, HOLD ON. IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO TALK US OUT OF THIS. IF THIS RESTORES NICOLE, THEN THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT GOING FORWARD. IF THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS INVOLVED, THAT'S DOUBLY TRUE.

GIVEN EVERYTHING SONIC'S SAID, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE TO SAVE EVERYONE. BUT I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT ALL OF YOU.

LIKE YOU'VE GOTTA ASK! WE'RE THE **FREEDOM FIGHTERS.**

OKAY, DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU.

AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER, WE CAN HANDLE ANY CRISIS.

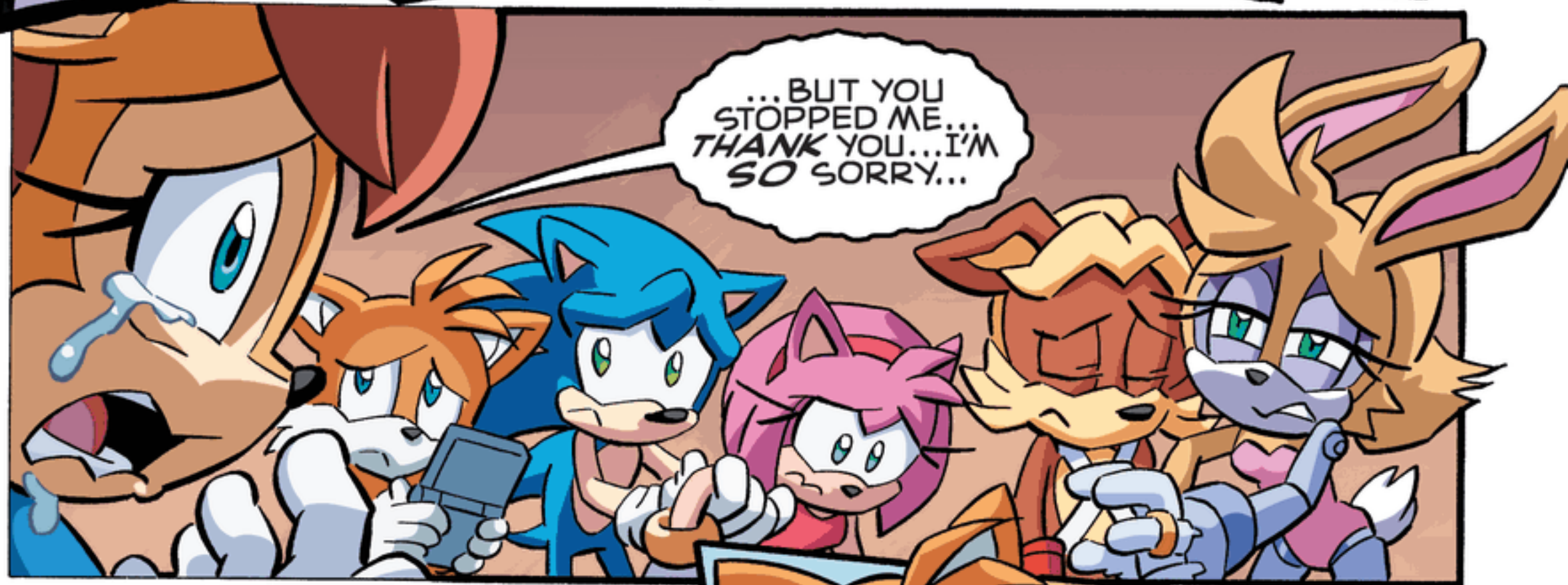
READY FOR THIS?

WHO KNOWS? LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH.

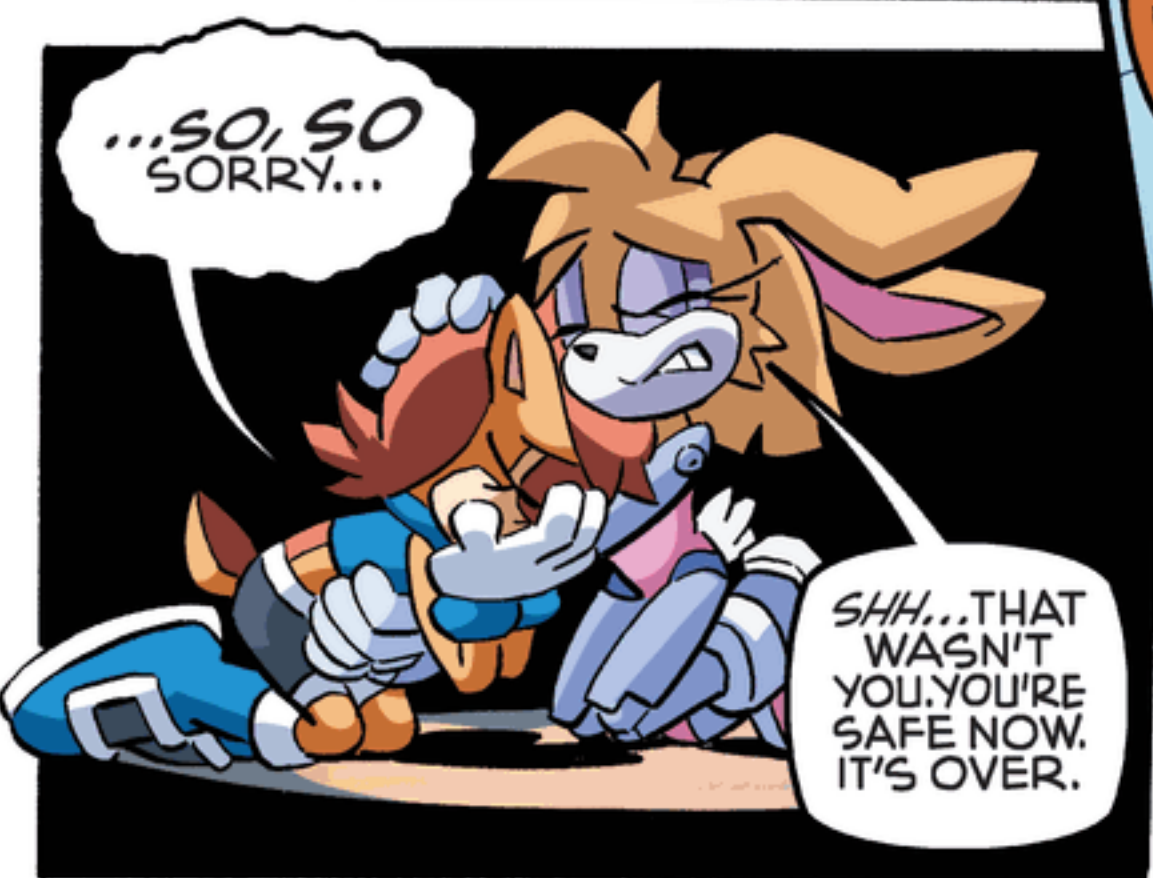
ALL RIGHT, FOR NICOLE, AND FOR THE WORLD.



...TRIED TO
START A
WAR...
THINGS I
SAID...
THINGS I DID
...ALMOST
MURDERED...



...BUT YOU
STOPPED ME...
THANK YOU...I'M
SO SORRY...



...SO, SO
SORRY...

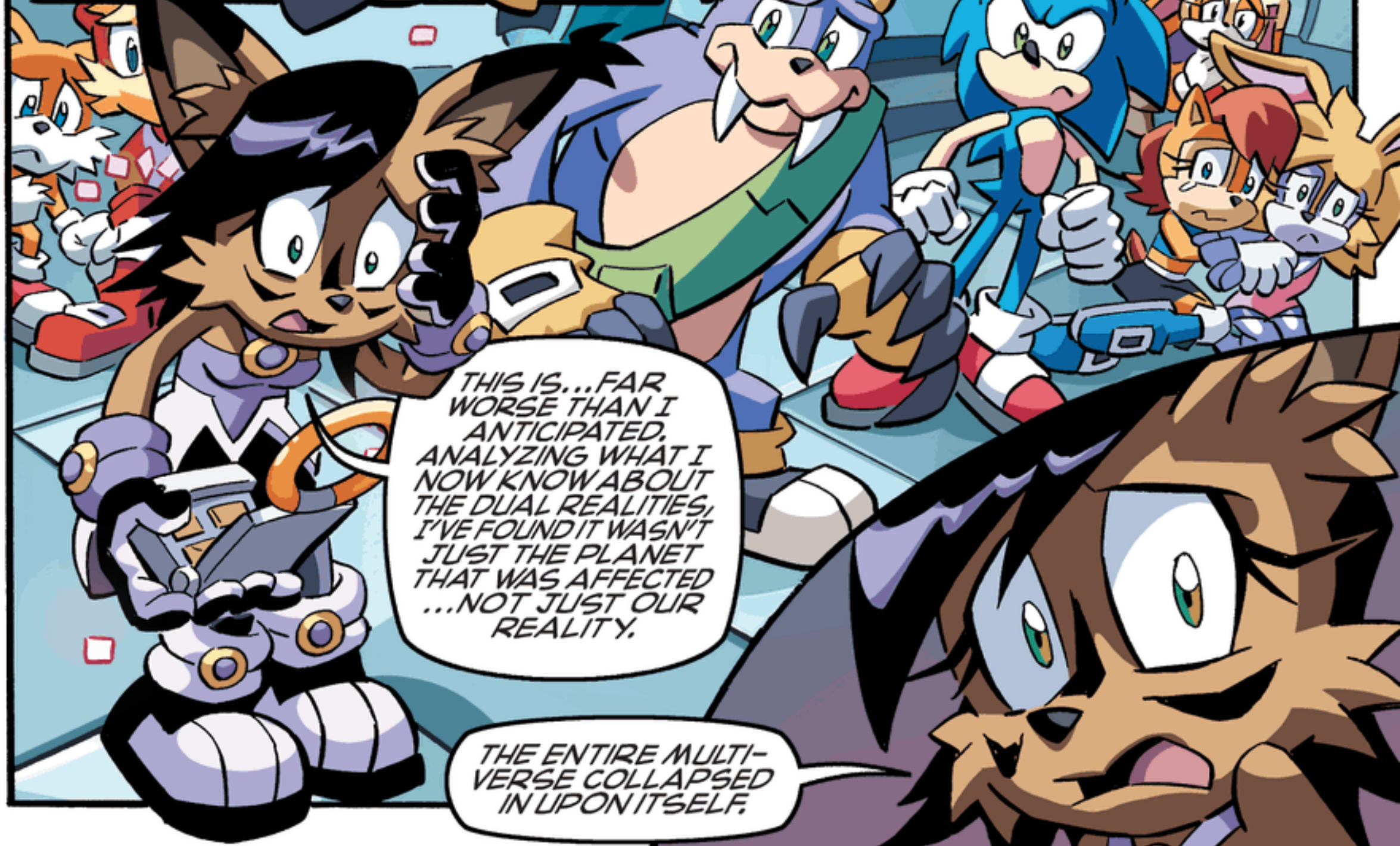
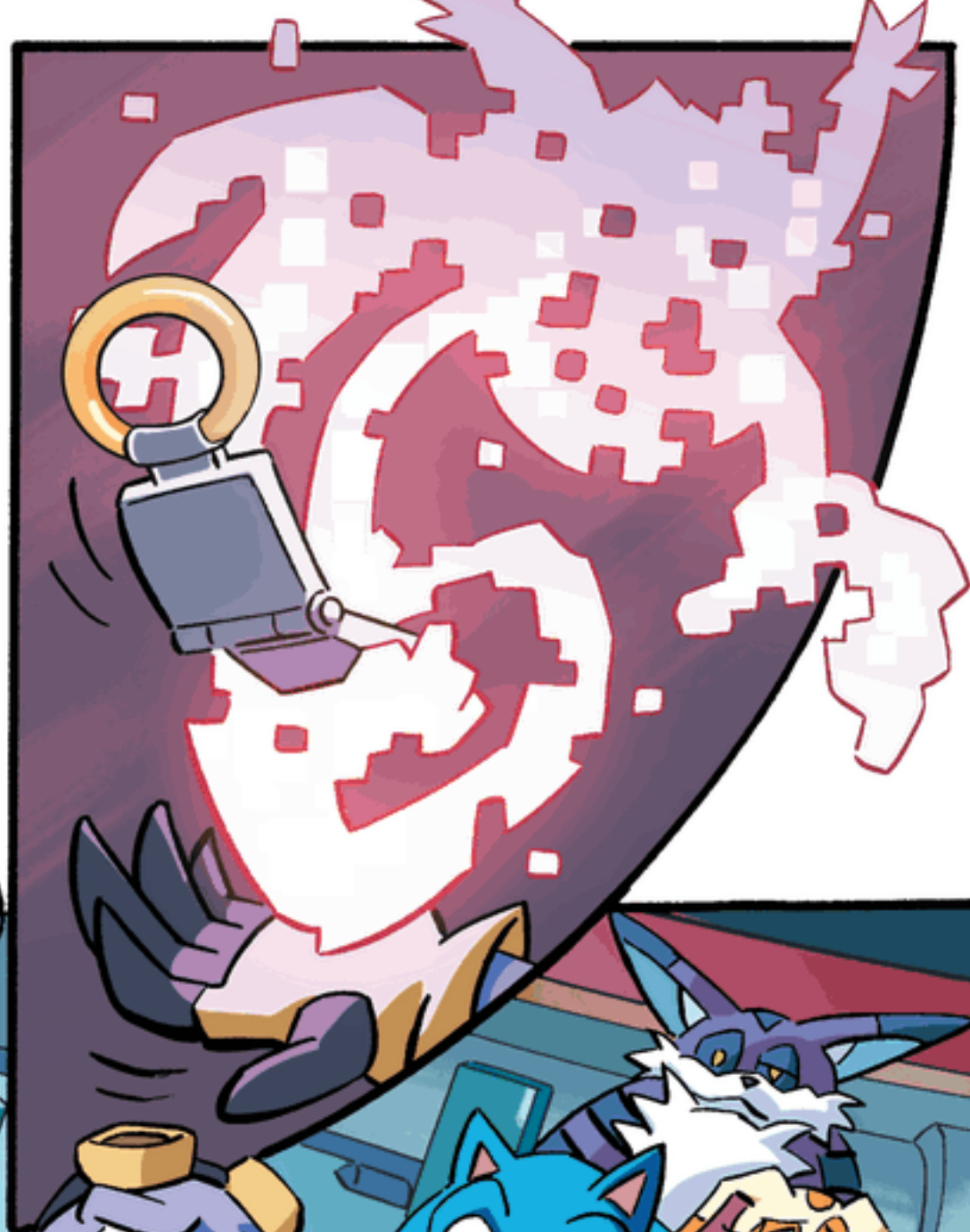
SHH...THAT
WASN'T
YOU. YOU'RE
SAFE NOW.
IT'S OVER.



...SONIC.

YEAH?
YOU DOIN'
OKAY NOW
THAT--

LAUNCH THE SKY
PATROL! NOW!
THE WORLD DIDN'T
JUST GET RE-
WRITTEN!



ABOARD THE
DEATH EGG...

THE RESULTS ARE CLEAR.
EVERY FACET OF REALITY
FELL IN ON ITSELF AND WAS
THEN *RECREATED*. EVEN OUR
MOLECULAR MAKE-UP WAS
CHANGED TO MATCH OUR NEW
HISTORIES, THANKS TO MY
FAILED SUPER GENESIS WAVE.

AND SUPER
SONIC'S CHAOS
CONTROL,
WHICH YOU
INTERRUPTED.

YES.
YOU *KEEP*
REMINDING ME
OF THAT.

SO...IS THAT A
GOOD THING OR
A BAD THING?

WE
CAME OUT
FINE, SO WE
DODGED QUITE
THE METAPHOR-
ICAL BULLET!

ONLY
TO JUMP IN
FRONT OF A META-
PHORICAL CANNON!
WHEN I FIRST USED
THE GENESIS WAVE, IT
WAS ON *JUST* THIS
PLANET, AND THOSE
ENERGIES NEARLY
DESTROYED IT.*
THIS TIME...

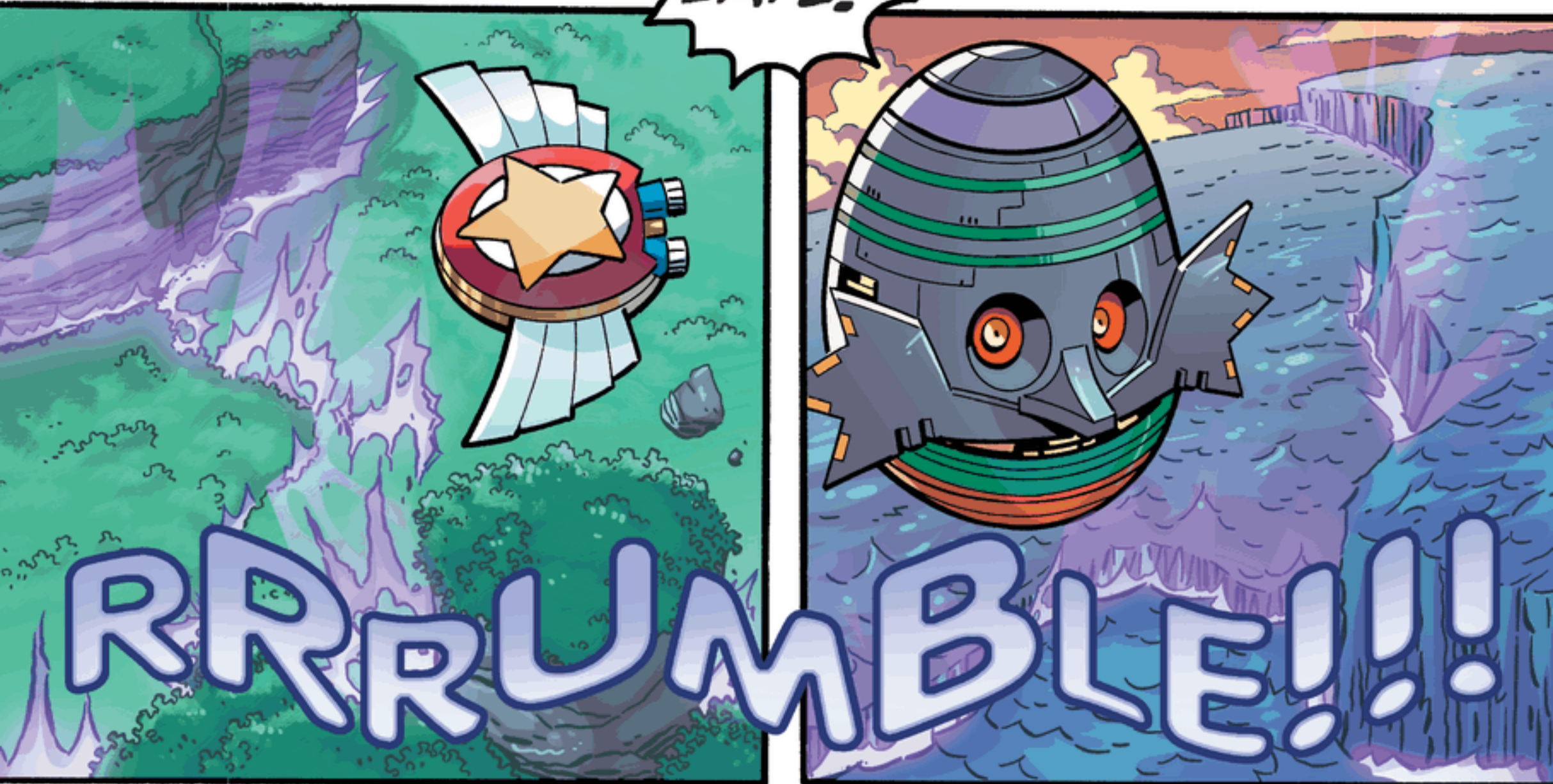
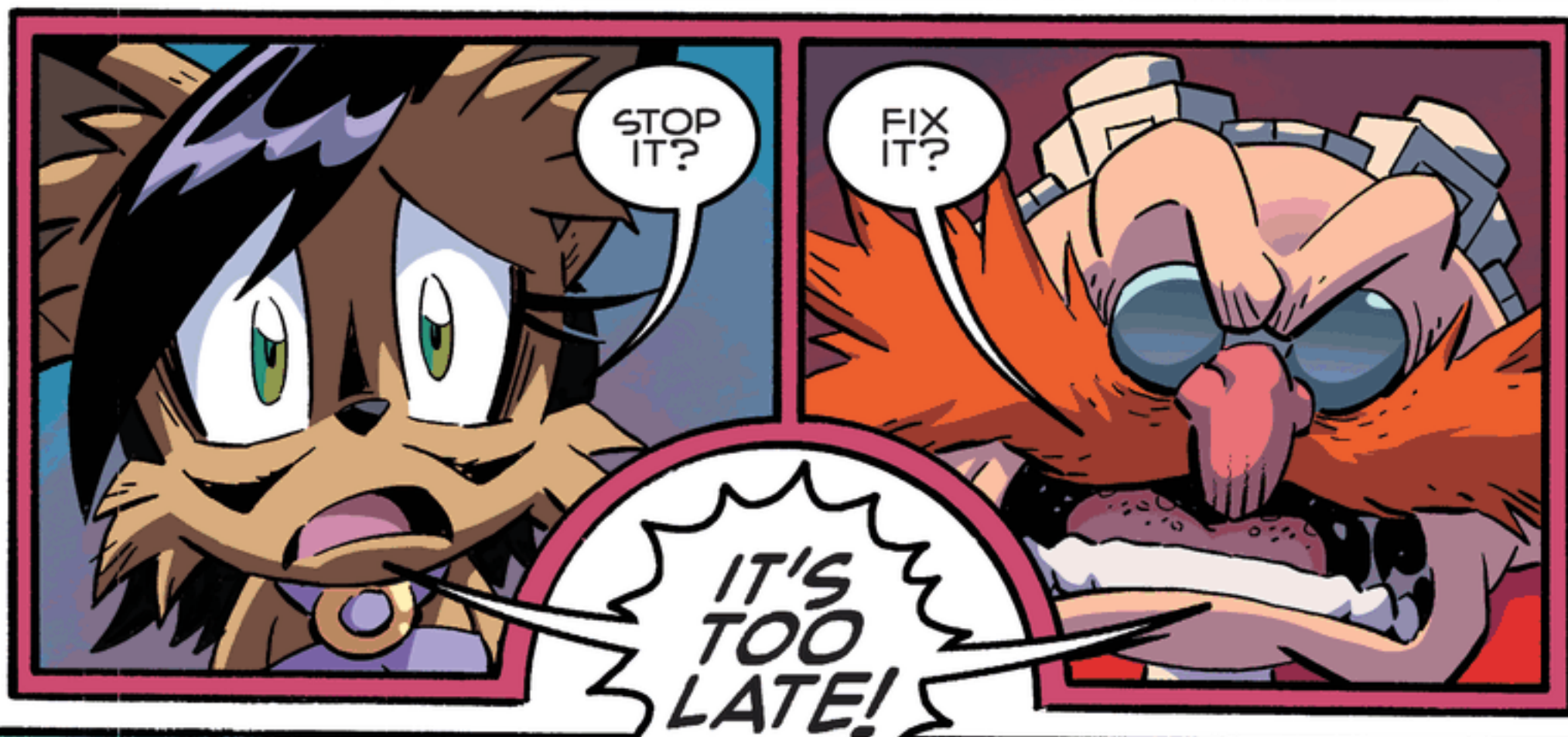
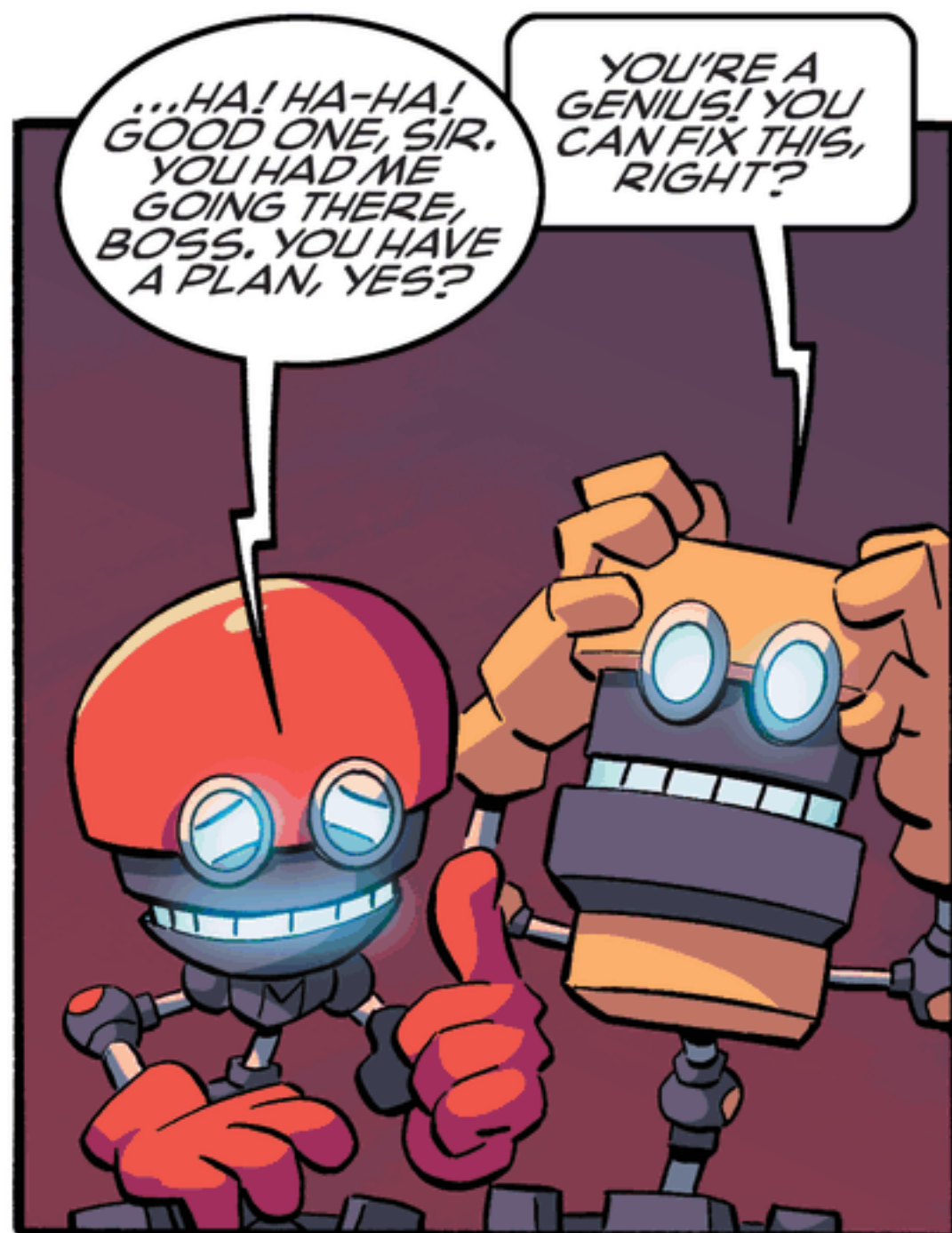
*SEE THE EPIC
"SONIC GENESIS"
GRAPHIC NOVEL, FOR
THE FULL STORY.

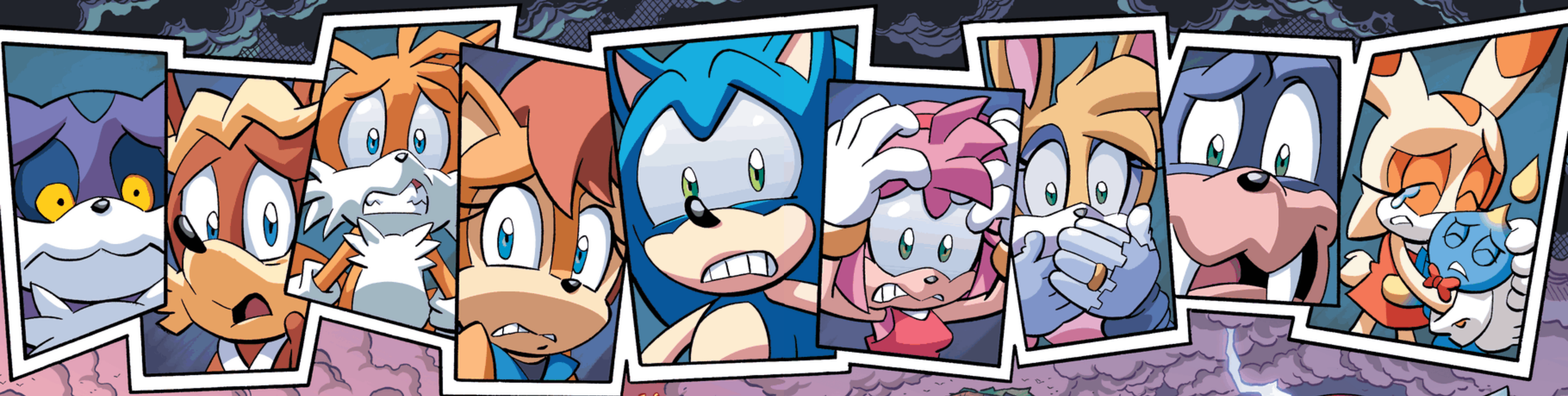
...THIS TIME, I WAS RE-
WRITING *EVERYTHING*.
REALITY WAS CHANGED...
BUT NOW ALL THAT EXCESS
ENERGY HAS BEEN APPLIED
TO OUR ONE, LITTLE,
FRAGILE WORLD...

THAT
...SOUNDS
OMINOUS,
BOSS.

OMINOUS? I'M TALKING
ABOUT THE *END OF THE
WORLD*, YOU IDIOT! THE
PLANET IS GOING TO TEAR
ITSELF APART!

METAL SONIC
RETRIEVED





**IS THIS THE
END?**

Or only just the beginning?
You've met the new
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
--now watch as they're
put to the test!
You simply can't miss all
the action and adventure
coming atcha **NEXT ISH!**
See you in thirty!



SONIC-GRAMS

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OFF PANEL

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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi, I'm Jamie. I love your Sonic the Hedgehog comics and I think that Countdown to Chaos is so awesome!!! I want to ask some questions.

What did you think of that EPIC ending? The chaos is just beginning so keep following the story, you won't wanna miss it! Oh, and you will be having the usual!

What can I do to make myself a better comic artist?

Draw everyday, especially from life! Great cartooning and illustrating starts only after you get a good sense of how everything appears in reality. Also, take a lot of art classes. Some colleges offer specific comic illustrating courses, check them out!

What does a penciller do?

The penciller is responsible for illustrating the story. The pencils should be tight and precise so that the inker knows where to add the shading and depth that give the pencilled images more definition. If the lines were sketchy, the inker would not know where to ink!

How can I catch up with the story without going on the Sonic/Archie app?

Although the app is most likely the fastest way to catch up, the Sonic Archives, Sonic Saga Series, and Sonic Universe graphic novels are some of the best options if you prefer paper over digital. For more information on these series checkout the Sonic Graphic Novel Library coupon in this issue!

I went by my favorite comic shop and found Best of Sonic the Hedgehog: Villains, what can I expect from it?

The Best of Sonic the Hedgehog: Villains is a collector's hard cover graphic novel featuring stories focused on the best of Sonic's worst enemies!

You guys are amazing, how can I get my letter into Sonic the Hedgehog? Please Please Please Please Pleeeeeease put this letter in the comic!!!

Sincerely, Scourge's biggest fan, Jamie! sent to SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Thanks for the praise and the letter, Jamie! As you may have realized, saying please five times can sometimes do the trick! Keep drawing and be sure to stay right here with Sonic the Hedgehog!

See y'all next month for an exciting rescue story, DAMAGE CONTROL!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #256



VARIANT EDITION BY TRACY YARDLEY!
WITH PHYLLIS NOVIN & DUSTIN EVANS

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SONIC UNIVERSE

ISSUE 60

SONIC'S DARK DOPPLEGANGER GOES BAD IN...

SHADOW FALL

PART 2 OF 4



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IN STORES 1.22.14

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